



State of Utah

Department of  
Natural Resources

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Division of  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 5, 2004

Mr. Jerry Kenczka  
Assistant Field Manager Operations  
Bureau of Land Management  
Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078

Subject: Proposal to Release Roads from Reclamation Liability, American  
Gilsonite, Bonanza Operations, M/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Kenczka:

On February 11, 2004, the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining received a letter from American Gilsonite requesting release from reclamation and bonding requirements for certain roads and mine areas. The Division does not need input from you about the mine sites; however, we would like to receive your comments about releasing the roads.

I am enclosing with this letter a copy of a map showing some of American Gilsonite's disturbed areas, and I have highlighted the roads for which they are requesting release. I am also including copies of the letter from American Gilsonite and of a letter from County Commission Chairman David Haslem commenting on the roads.

Although Commissioner Haslem's letter says road number 8 is designated as a class "D" road, access to this road is blocked by a locked gate. In addition, this road goes under a loading bin, and much of the west portion of the road no longer exists as a road. On April 28, 2004, I spoke with Paul Feltch of the Uintah County Road Department. In response to my questions about this road, Mr. Feltch had spoken with Commissioner Haslem. Mr. Feltch said that since access to the road is being restricted and because of the road condition, road 8 should be excluded from the list in the letter.

On March 30, 2004, Pete Sokolosky, Clay Taylor of American Gilsonite, and I visited all of the roads for which American Gilsonite is requesting release so we could better understand how the roads are being maintained and what use they

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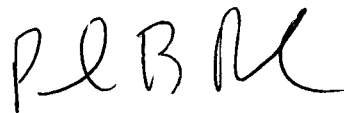
receive. Most of the roads are well used by various entities, but some, such as 14 and 15, receive very limited use.

Based on the request from American Gilsonite and on the comments from Uintah County, the Division is considering releasing American Gilsonite from reclamation and bonding responsibilities for the roads listed in the Uintah County letter (except for number 8). Although American Gilsonite is using these roads for their mining operations, they may not need to be permitted and bonded for reclamation if they are public roads that will not be reclaimed.

Before releasing these roads, the Division needs to receive comments from the Bureau of Land Management about the current and anticipated future uses of the roads that cross BLM lands. Do you have any objections to the roads remaining when the mine site is reclaimed? Will they be compatible with the land use plans for the area? Will they facilitate the land uses, or would they be detrimental? Do you anticipate adverse environmental effects that might make it undesirable to leave any of the roads?

If possible, we would like to receive your comments within the next 30 days, or by about June 7. Please contact me (801-538-5261 or e-mail [paulbaker@utah.gov](mailto:paulbaker@utah.gov)) if you need further information about the locations of these roads or about the permitting or bonding history of these areas. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P B Baker'.

Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist  
Minerals Regulatory Program